Global Development, Review and Update of National Implementation Plans (NIPs) under the Stockholm Convention (SC) on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID
11945
Countries
Global (Chile, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay)
Project Name
Global Development, Review and Update of National Implementation Plans (NIPs) under the Stockholm Convention (SC) on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)
Agencies
UNEP
Date received by PM
5/29/2025
Review completed by PM
6/11/2025
Program Manager

Jewel Batchasingh
Focal Area
Chemicals and Waste
Project Type
EA

Expedited Enabling Activity req (CEO)

Section I - Enabling Activity Summary

Funding elements.

Is the enabling activity aligned with the relevant GEF funding elements as indicated in Table A and as defined by the GEF-8 Programming Directions? Is the General Enabling Activity Information table correctly populated?

Secretariat's Comments

Toshi 6/11/2024:

This project is aligned with the GEF-8 Chemical and Waste focal area strategy.

Agency's CommentsN/A

Cost Ranges.

If there was a deviation in the cost range, was this explained?

Secretariat's Comments

Toshi 6/11/2024:

Cleared. The project has deviations in the cost range. However, the reasons for this increase are provided.

Agency's CommentsN/A

Enabling activity summary.

Is the enabling activity summary clear? Are the components in Table B and as described in the enabling activity request sound, appropriate, and sufficiently clear to achieve the project objectives?

Secretariat's Comments

Toshi 6/11/2024:
1) Stakeholders: Please consider adding a list of project's stakeholders, including the role each of them is expected to have in the project and their means of engagement. This list shall include private sector, NGOs, academia and financial institutions. In addition to these stakeholders, it is recommended that the list include relevant civil society organizations and local communities.

2) Gender: Gender considerations shall be mainstreamed on relevant project outputs (e.g. 2.3, etc.) please adjust the outputs accordingly. Also, please strengthen the reflection of gender perspectives in Outcome 3 (e.g., knowledge products highlighting the gender dimensions of the project, and widely disseminating these, including in the knowledge platform to be created, and in

global events (e.g., COPs). In addition, please ensure that monitoring and reporting also include gender equality outcomes or results.

Agency's Comments

1) List and role of project stakeholders available in Annex K, however, the relevant information has been added to the project document in Section B 2 Project. The additions/changes are made in red font for easy review.

2) The national reports are Stockholm Convention obligations towards countries therefore there is limited scope to add the gender element to the output. However, the project will encourage the involvement of gender inclusive teams during the execution. The log frame Output 3.1 targets and milestones have been updated with this information as below:

3.???? Knowledge management and information sharing					
Outcome 3	**Outcome Indicators**	**Baseline**	**Targets and Monitoring Milestones**	**Means of Verification**	**Assumptions & Risks**
Knowledge transferred and information exchanged by NIP stakeholders	**9. Number of beneficiaries using published research and database resources**	**Limited training opportunities and resources; participating Parties can require support to conduct a NIP and a NIP update**	**70 individuals (10 per country) using published and database resources**	**Progress reports** **Training/webinar reports**	**Risks** **Inability or lack of capacity for governments to provide adequate support services** **Assumptions** **Capacity built remains in the Parties to review and update the NIP and report on its**
Outputs	**Output Indicators**	**Baseline**	**Targets and Monitoring Milestones**	**Means of Verification**	

3.1 New knowledge products and tools developed during existing NIP(10785) will be updated and disseminated to target stakeholders	**9.1 Number of existing technical reports/publications/studies/ analyses reviewed/ updated/developed.**	**Some tools already exist but need modifications due to regular amendments to the Stockholm Convention**	**At least 3 knowledge products highlighting gender dimensions will be developed, and published on the gender-inclusive knowledge platform (linked with Output 3.2). These products will also be disseminated in global events (e.g., COPs).**	**Knowledge products and tools**	**implementation** **External funding for NIP implementation is available** **Willingness and consent from governments to share information and data** **SC Secretariat supports the use of BRS clearinghouse mechanism**

Section 2 - Enabling Activity Supporting Information

Eligibility Criteria.

Is this enabling activity eligible for GEF funding?

Secretariat's Comments

Toshi 6/11/2024:

Yes.

Agency's CommentsN/A

Institutional framework.

Are the institutional arrangements for implementation adequately described?

Secretariat's Comments

Toshi 6/11/2024:

Yes.

Agency's CommentsN/A

Monitoring and Evaluation.

Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan?

Secretariat's Comments

Toshi 6/11/2024:

Yes. The M&E budget for the project is $30,000.

Agency's CommentsN/A

Section 3. Information Tables

GEF resource availability.

Is the proposed GEF financing in Table F (including the Agency fee) in line with GEF policies and guidelines?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

Toshi 6/11/2024:

There is a discrepancy in the budget amounts between Table F and the OFP letter (for all 7 countries). Please check them and amend in Portal or submit the new letters with the correct amounts signed by the OFPs.

The total financing (from GEFTF) being requested for this project is US$3,985,800, inclusive of project preparation grant (PPG), if any, and Agency fees for project cycle management services associated with the total GEF Project Financing. The financing requested for the global NIP project is detailed in the table below.

Source of Funds	GEF Agency	Focal Area Source	Amount (in US$)				
			GEF Project Financing	GEF Project Financing Agency Fee	Project Preparation Grant (PPG)	Project Preparation Grant (PPG) Agency Fee	Total
GEFTF	UNEP	Chemicals	3,640,000	345,800	0	0	3,985,800
(select)	(select)	(select)					0
(select)	(select)	(select)					0
(select)	(select)	(select)					0
Total GEF Resources			3,640,000	345800	0	0	3,985,800

F: GEF Financing Resources Requested by Agency, Country and Programming of Funds:

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	GEF Enabling Activity Financing ($)	Agency Fee ($)	Total($)
UNEP	GET	Global	Chemicals and Waste	POPs	3,341,200.00	317,414.00	3,658,614.00
Total GEF Resources					3,341,200.00	317,414.00	3,658,614.00

Agency Response Table F shows the correct amount of $3,658,614.00 requested for the project. The discrepancy between the project submission and Letters of Endorsement is due to Colombia?s decision to withdraw from the project before the submission. Therefore, the associated budget allocation has been deducted, and accordingly the overall PMC has been adjusted.

Are they within the resources available from (mark all that apply):

STAR allocation?

Secretariat's Comments

N/A.

Agency's CommentsN/A

Focal Area allocation?

Secretariat's Comments

Toshi 6/11/2024:

Yes.

Agency's CommentsN/A
LDCF under the principle of equitable access?

Secretariat's Comments

N/A.

Agency's CommentsN/A
SCCF (Adaptation or Tech Transfer)?

Secretariat's Comments

N/A.

Agency's CommentsN/A
Focal Area Set Aside?

Secretariat's Comments

N/A.

Agency's CommentsN/A
Rio Markers.
Are the Rio Markers for CCM ,CCA, BD and LD presented?

Secretariat's Comments

N/A.

Agency's CommentsN/A
Country endorsement.

Has the project been endorsed by the country's GEF Operational Focal Point at the time of the EA submission and has the name and position been checked against the GEF database? Are the endorsed amounts consistent with the amounts included in Portal

Secretariat's Comments

Toshi 6/11/2024:
In the LOE of Cuba and Honduras, information on Source of Fund, Agency, and Focal Area is missing. Please fill them in.

Source of Funds	GEF Agency	Focal Area Source	Amount (in US$)				
			GEF Project Financing	GEF Project Financing Agency Fee	Project Preparation Grant (PPG)	Project Preparation Grant (PPG) Agency Fee	Total
			3,640,000	345,800	0	0	3,985,800
							0
							0
							0
Total GEF Resources			3,640,000	345800	0	0	3,985,800

[1] Subject to the capacity assessment carried out by the GEF Implementing Agency, as appropriate.

Recursos Naturales y Ambiente

SERNA

HONDURAS

Source of Funds	GEF Agency	Focal Area Source	Amount (in US$)				
			GEF Project Financing	GEF Project Financing Agency Fee	Project Preparation Grant (PPG)	Project Preparation Grant (PPG) Agency Fee	Total
Total GEF Resources			3,640,000	345800	0	0	3,985,800

Sincerely,

Agency's CommentsThe letters of Endorsement from Cuba and Honduras have been updated as provided by the respective Operational Focal Points.

Response to Comments

Are all the comments adequately responded to? (only as applicable)
Gef Secretariat comments

Secretariat's Comments

1. On the Letters of Endorsement that were missing (from Honduras and Cuba):

A. the LoE from Honduras is signed by the PFP. We would kindly request the agency to obtain an LoE signed by the current OFP, Mr. Jorge Salaverri.

Source of Funds	GEF Agency	Focal Area Source	Amount (in US$)		
			GEF Project Financing	GEF Project Financing Agency Fee	Total
GEF	UNEP	C&W	3,341,200	317,414	3,658,614
Total GEF Resources			3,341,200	317,414	3,658,614

Sincerely,

SECRETARIO DE ESTADO HONDURAS Energía, Recursos Naturales, Ambiente y Minas

LUCKY HALACH MEDINA ESTRADA
Secretary
Natural Resources and Environment Secretariat
GEF Political Focal Point

Honduras

Mr. Lucky Halach Medina Estrada

Political Focal Point since 2022-02-16

Minister

Secretaría de Energía, Recursos Naturales, Ambiente y Minas

Edificio Principal, 200 metros al Sur del Estadio Nacional

Tegucigalpa

Honduras

Mr. Jorge Emilio Salaverri Henriquez

Operational Focal Point since 2025-07-09

Deputy Secretary of State for Natural Resources

Secretariat of Natural Resources and Environment

Edificio Santa Fe, Col. Castaño Sur Paseo Virgilio Zelaya, Bloque C

Tegucigalpa M.D.C., Francisco Morazan 11101

Honduras

B. On the LoE from Cuba: the LoE is signed by the previous OFP and the financing requested in the text does not match the financing requested in the table. Given that there is a new OFP since August please request the new OFP to provide a corrected LOE.

The total financing (from GEFTF]) being requested for this project is US$3,985,800, inclusive of project preparation grant (PPG), if any, and Agency fees for project cycle management services associated with the total GEF Project Financing. The financing requested for the global NIP project is detailed in the table below.

Source of Funds	GEF Agency	Focal Area Source	Amount (in US$)				
			GEF Project Financing	GEF Project Financing Agency Fee	Project Preparation Grant (PPG)	Project Preparation Grant (PPG) Agency Fee	Total
GEF	UNEP	C&W	3,341,200	317,414	0	0	3,658,614
							0
							0
							0
Total GEF Resources			3,341,200	317,414	0	0	3,658,614

[1] Subject to the capacity assessment carried out by the GEF Implementing Agency, as appropriate.

Y MEDIO AMBIENTE

[Where the source of funding is GEF Trust Fund only (i.e. excluding LDCF, SCCF) and the focal area falls under the STAR model, include the following]:

The STAR resources indicated above are being endorsed for the project listed above and submitted by the GEF Implementing Agency via the GEF Portal.

Sincerely,

Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología y Medio Ambiente
DIRECCIÓN DE RELACIONES INTERNACIONALES

Ulises Fernández Gomez
[Director
Dirección de Relaciones Internacionales
Cuba]

Cuba

Ms. Lisbet Font Villa

Operational Focal Point since 2025-08-13

Political Focal Point since 2025-08-13

Director of International Relations

Ministerio de Ciencia, Technologia y Medio Ambiente

Havana

Cuba

2. **On the budget:** On the comment related to the 450k allocated to Technical Experts: thank you for the information provided but this information should be included in the budget table. Currently the budget is not clear that this cost represents two (2) positions.

Agency's Comments

November 20, 2025:

1. A. Honduras

The LOE signed by the current OFP, Mr. Jorge Salaverri, has been obtained and is attached for reference.

B. Cuba

The corrected LOE from Cuba, signed by Ms. Lisbet Font Villa, has been secured. The revised amounts are accurately reflected, and the updated LOE is attached.

2. In line with the reviewer?s recommendation, the previous single budget line for ?Technical Assistance Expert? has been revised and split into two distinct positions: **Technical Assistance Expert ? Policy:** $300,000; and **Technical Assistance Expert ? Technical Focus:** $150,000. This adjustment reflects the plan to engage two specialized experts (policy expert and a technical focus expert) as outlined in updated Annex E (TORs).

Other Agencies comments

Secretariat's Comments

N/A.

Agency's CommentsN/A

Council comments

Secretariat's Comments

N/A.

Agency's CommentsN/A

STAP comments

Secretariat's Comments

N/A.

Agency's CommentsN/A

Convention Secretariat comments

Secretariat's Comments

N/A.

Agency's CommentsN/A

CSOs comments

Secretariat's Comments

N/A.

Agency's CommentsN/A
Project Budget Table.

Is the project budget table attached? Are the activities / expenditures reasonably and accurately charged to the three identified sources (Components, M&E and PMC)?

Secretariat's Comments

Toshi 6/18/2024:
1) The uploaded budget table is unreadable in the PDF document (which is the document that is circulated to Council and later web posted). We kindly suggest the agency to use the template provided in the Guidelines on the Project Cycle, and remove the columns for the budget allocation per year, increase the font size, and remove the Check sections in the file. Additionally, request the agency to clearly assign the responsible entity to each line of the budget table.

2) In the project budget table, the text of the Responsible entities in row 3202 is off margins, please correct this (you can ask ITS for support in case it is needed).

3) The budget table is repeated twice in the CEO Approval Request Portal view (see pages 17 ? 19). Please remove one of the tables.

4) A ?Technical Assistance Expert? for $450,000 seems excessive when compared to the other personnel for this project. We could not find the respective TOR to analyze the outputs to be provided by this position. Please revise down it and include the TOR.

5) The funds allocated to the project personnel component represents 47% ($1,571,200.00) of the entire project budget. We recommend the agency to revise down. Normally the project personnel do not exceed 30% of the project budget.

10	PROJECT PERSONNEL COMPONENT						
1100	**Project Personnel**						
1101	Project Manager					$ 91,000.00	$ 91,000.00
1102	Financial Assistant					$ 1,200.00	$ 1,500.00
1103	Technical Assistance Expert (policy and technical focus)	$ 450,000.00					$ 450,000.00
1104	IT Expert for BRS Toolkit	$ 100,000.00					$ 100,000.00
1105	POPs Regional Expert (technical focus) (RC)		$ 119,000.00				$ 119,000.00
1106	Communication Officer (GGKP)			$ 180,000.00			$ 180,000.00
1199	Sub-Total	$ 550,000.00	$ 119,000.00	$ 180,000.00	$ -	$ 92,200.00	$ 941,200.00
1200	**National NIP experts**						
1201	National NIP Expert 1 (lead)		$ 224,000.00				$ 224,000.00
1202	National NIP Expert 2		$ 210,000.00				$ 210,000.00
1203	National NIP Expert 3		$ 196,000.00				$ 196,000.00
1299	Sub-Total	$ -	$ 630,000.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 630,000.00

6) We will review the budget table again upon resubmission and provide comments as appropriate.

Agency's Comments

1) The budget table has been amended accordingly on the portal and has clear visibility.

2) Responsible entities in row 3202 have been adjusted accordingly (as below) and are visible on the portal clearly.

3) The duplicated budget table has been removed and is now readable.

4) The global component is distributed across two interlinked projects (i.e. Global LAC and Global Africa, Asia, and Eastern Europe ? to be submitted in Q3 2025 with a budget of ~5mil) covering a total of 22 countries). This approach reduces the overall project costs by optimising personnel expenditures through leveraging shared resources across both projects.

Two Technical Assistance Experts, one with a policy focus and the other with technical/inventory and data focus, will provide cross-cutting support to all participating countries. Their responsibilities directly contribute to the delivery of Component 1, including the development of methodologies and tools (Output 1.1), strengthening of national capacities for data management and reporting (Output 1.2), and validation of final NIPs (Output 1.3).

Annex E ? Technical Assistance Expert ? tasks to be performed has been updated to provide necessary essential details (as below)

Titles	$/week	Estimated weeks	Unit	Total	Tasks to be performed

Technical Assistance Expert (policy and technical focus)	1,500	150	2	450,000	Provision of policy guidance and technical support. Facilitation of capacity-building. Validation of NIP Updates and national reports. **1. Technical Assistance Expert ? Policy Focus** **Responsibilities:** ? **Provide policy-relevant guidance and tools** by collecting country experiences, identifying challenges, and supporting the integration of monitoring/reporting mechanisms. ? **Facilitate knowledge exchange and capacity-building among Parties** through lessons learned and best practice sharing. ? **Ensure quality and coherence of updated NIPs** by guiding alignment with international obligations and validating final submissions. ? **Technical Assistance Expert ? Technical/Inventory and Data Focus** **Responsibilities:** ? **Strengthen POPs inventory methodologies** through pilot testing, sectoral approaches, and development of technical tools. ? **Enhance use of technical platforms** by contributing to improvements of the Stockholm Convention Toolkit and supporting updates to global reports on newly listed chemicals. ? **Link data to decision-making** by integrating GMP monitoring results into national inventories and providing technical input for inventory validation.

5) As noted above, the personnel budget is relatively higher because the global components (C1 and C3) support implementation across two interlinked global NIP projects covering a total of 22 countries. Given this broader scope, the allocation is considered necessary to ensure adequate technical and coordination support across all participating countries.

Environmental and Social Safeguards.

If there are screening documents or other ESS documents available, have these been attached? (only as applicable)

Secretariat's Comments

Toshi 6/11/2024:

Yes. ESS documents have been attached. The overall project risk is categorized as low risk.

Agency's CommentsN/A

GEFSEC DECISION RECOMMENDATION.
Is CEO endorsement/ approval recommended?

Secretariat's Comments

REVIEW DATE(S)

	Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement	Response to Secretariat comments
First Review	**6/11/2025**	
Additional Review (as necessary)	**6/18/2025**	
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		